

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



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CONSTITUTION OF OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Oak Grove Christian Church, an Elder governed body, in order to promote the work of the church in the Spirit of Christ and thus advance His kingdom do hereby adopt this constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be: Oak Grove Christian Church and will be commonly known as Oak Grove Church.

Section B. Purpose and Mission

1. The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the New Testament: to win people to saving faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the church, to nurture their growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the unity of all Christians and with them engage in the common task of building the kingdom of God as outlined in Oak Grove's *Mission Statement*.
2. Mission Statement: To help people become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ to the glory of God!
Which is fulfilled when we are...
 - a. Proclaiming Jesus Christ and encouraging people to know Him as the only Lord and Savior of the world.
 - b. Encouraging and enabling spiritual growth through the process of prayer, Bible Study, and discipleship.
 - c. Nurturing and supporting people in the local congregation.

- d. Providing opportunities for worship which truly exalt God and ascribe glory to His name.
- e. Teaching the faith to our children, through encouragement that the teaching begins at home, supplemented by a solid program of Christian Education.
- f. Encouraging fellowship within the congregation.
- g. Reaching out in ministry to the local community and beyond, displaying love and concern for others.
- h. Intentionally supporting the work of missions and/or missionaries in the other parts of the world.
- i. Working in cooperation with all Christians to do the ministry of Christ.

ARTICLE II. COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and agreeing with Oak Grove's *Faith and Practice* and *Constitution and Bylaws*, I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Oak Grove Church family, to commit myself to faithful worship and ministry as unto the Lord.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Section A. Statement of Final Interpretive Authority

This Church's statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our governing Board of Elders is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Section B. Statement of Faith

- 1. Core Beliefs
 - a. Scripture

We believe that the Bible in its original writings is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, eternal Word of God. The Bible is essential for training in righteousness and is the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of mankind and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life. (Matt. 24:35; John 10:35; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

- b. The Godhead

We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons, each of

whom is coeternal and coequal (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - commonly called the Trinity).

We believe in God the Father, who is sovereign over all things, creator of the universe, revealed to mankind as unchanging, all-knowing, all-powerful, all loving and always present. (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 90:2, 139:7-12, 16; Matt. 19:26; Rom. 1:20; James 1:17; 1 John 3:20; Rev. 19:6).

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, fully God and fully man, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He was totally holy by virtue of His miraculous birth and sinless life. Jesus voluntarily laid down His life, the just dying for the unjust, making it possible for man to be saved. He rose bodily from the dead on the third day after death, providing salvation for all who believe in His atoning sacrifice and is now seated at the right hand of the Father and will one day return to establish His earthly kingdom. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:14, 18; 2:19; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 10:8-10 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil 2:5-8; 2 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 4:15; 7:25; 8:1; 9:14, 28; 1 Pet. 3:18).

We believe in God the Holy Spirit who lives in all believers at the moment they are regenerated (born again), guiding and teaching Biblical truth, regenerating and empowering them to live a life of godliness. He bestows spiritual gifts to all believers, and that these gifts are to be used for the edification and perfecting of the believers in the church. He convicts the world of sin and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:16, 17, 26, 15:26, 16:7-14; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:14; 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 3:16; 4:7-16; Titus 3:5; Heb. 2:3-4)

c. Mankind

We believe that God created man and woman in His likeness, free of sin and able to have intimate fellowship with God. (Gen.1:26-27; 2:7)

We believe that all of humanity fell away from God when Adam first sinned, and that the fall resulted in both physical and spiritual death for man. In this fallen condition, man was left totally depraved and unable to remedy his own situation. (Gen. 3:1-13; Isa. 53:6; John 3:3; Rom. 3:23, 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Eph. 2)

d. Sin

We believe that sin is anything that does not conform to the character and nature of God. It is falling short of His glory - missing the mark of His perfection - through negligence, unfaithfulness and willfully crossing boundaries set by God. (Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:10; James 4:17; 1 John 2:15-17; 3:4)

We believe that all mankind sinned in Adam, the head of the human race, and that each human being has a sin nature, and also has committed personal sin. (Rom. 1:18; 3:23; 5:12; 1 John 1:8-10)

e. Salvation

We believe that God provided the only means for reconciliation to Himself by allowing His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the sacrifice for our sins by His death upon the cross.

We believe that salvation is the act of God whereby man is brought into a proper relationship with God. It is that act where spiritually dead man is made spiritually alive (Ps.3:8; John 2:9; Eph. 2:1-2).

We believe that this is accomplished by the grace of God through mans' faith in the death (shed blood), burial, and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-10).

We believe Jesus fulfilled every aspect of God's righteous requirements in the Law. He conquered death by His bodily resurrection, thus fulfilling His claim to be God's Son. In this way, He bridged the gap closing our separation from God. His resurrection gives us the assurance that we will also be resurrected "IF" we trust that His death paid for our sins (John 1:12-12, 3:16, 5:28-29; Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Thess.4:16, 17; Rev. 20:12-15).

We believe the Holy Spirit reveals the truth of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ by convicting the individual of sin, the need for repentance, and a personal faith in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord.

We believe that salvation involves three things for the believer: deliverance from the penalty of sin at the moment of regeneration; victory over the power of sin during the Christian life; and deliverance from the presence of sin at glorification.

We believe that salvation positionally sanctifies the believer and is known as justification, but that the believer needs to experience growth in his daily life, which is known as progressive sanctification (Rom. 6:14; 2 cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:20-21).

We believe that the expression of salvation is exhibited by the act of a Believer's baptism by emersion.

2. Essential Beliefs

a. Satan and Angels

We believe in the existence of the person of Satan. He was created by God as the greatest of angels, but later rebelled against God. After he fell, he organized his own kingdom, which consists of both evil angels and unregenerate man. He is currently the ruler-god of this age. Satan's ultimate goal is to overthrow God. He seeks to keep the unsaved from becoming saved. He seeks to hinder and destroy the Christian's testimony and ministry for God.

We believe that both Satan and his evil angels will be consigned to the eternal Lake of Fire after the Millennium (Isa. 14:12–17; Ezek. 28:11–19; Mt. 25:41; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 20:7–10).

We believe that there is an innumerable host of angels who remained faithful and true to God. They are servants to the Most High God and are ministering spirits to those who are heirs of salvation (Ps. 91:11–12; Mt. 4:6; Acts 12:7–10; Rev. 7:11).

b. The Church

We believe that the true church is a universal, invisible, living organism and that it is the "body of Christ" who is Himself the head of this body. The Universal Church is made up of regenerate, redeemed believers only. (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18)

We believe the church began on the day of Pentecost; that every believer is indwelt/baptized by the Holy Spirit into the one body of Christ, which is the Universal Church. (John 14:16-17; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 12:13)

We believe there are many local churches which are made up of those regenerate, redeemed believers who desire the fellowship that Christ is building, based upon the foundation of faith in His nature and His saving work.

We believe the local churches are called to be distinct from the world while in it, called to grow in Christlikeness, called to edify fellow believers to maturity, called to acclaim to the world God's offer of everlasting life and to be the visible representation of the body of Christ in the local community. (Matt. 16:16-18, 28:19-20; John 17:6,9,11; Acts 2:46-47; Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 1:2, 12:13, 27; 14; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11-16; Col. 1:18)

c. The Ordinances: Baptism and Communion

We believe in the command of Christ, confirmed by His example, to be baptized

in water by immersion, for those who have received faith in Him, in order that they might be fully identified with Christ. Baptism then is an example of obedience and a testimony of the change which the Spirit has accomplished in their hearts (Matt. 3:12-15; 28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21; Col. 2:12).

We believe in the command of Christ to remember His sacrifice and eternal communion with Him by regular observance of His last supper, and by partaking of His chosen symbols, the bread and the cup, which represent His broken body and shed blood (Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-34).

d. Spiritual Gifts

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in His wisdom and according to His good pleasure, has bestowed “gift(s) of grace” on all believers in Christ, for the purpose of equipping them for ministry and bringing about maturity of faith and unity in Christ’s church. These gifts are to be used in accordance with God’s expressed will as revealed in His Word.

However, we believe that some of these gifts mentioned in Scripture--popularly known as “sign gifts”, tongues, prophecy, miracles, healings, etc.--were primarily manifested in the age of the apostles and were for the purpose of confirming apostleship and giving authority of their writings, i.e., Scripture. Since, the age of the apostles has passed and the Scriptures are complete, we believe the sign gifts as manifested in the first century are extremely rare and should be evaluated within their original intent of confirming God’s message and messenger, for the sole purpose of advancing the Gospel in areas where the name “Jesus” has not been heard (Rom. 12:4-8; Eph. 4:7, 11-12; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

e. The Return of Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ’s ascension into heaven, His present work as intercessor, the pre-tribulation rapture of His Church, and His personal, bodily, pre-millennial, imminent return (Matt. 24:36; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Rom. 8:34; 1 Th. 4:13-17; 5:6; Titus 2:13; 1 John 2:28).

We believe that, following the Rapture of the Church, the seven-year Tribulation Period (Daniel’s 70th week, or the Time of Jacob’s Trouble) will take place. (Daniel. 9:24-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

We believe that following the Tribulation, the Millennium will begin. It will be brought about by the literal, physical, visible, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to rule and to reign for one thousand years. After the

Millennium, those who refused the grace of God in accepting the penalty of their sin being paid by Jesus Christ on the cross, will be judged and eternally punished, while those who placed their faith in His person and His work will share in His eternal joy (Zech. 14:1-4; John 3:16; Rev. 19-20).

f. Israel

We believe that Israel is God's chosen national people. In His sovereign will, Israel serves as a channel of His blessing to the entire world for His glory, and His witness to the nations. God's election of Israel for this unique relationship is unchangeable. Israel is distinct from the church and central to God's plan for all ages (past, present and future). The unfulfilled prophecies given to Israel in the Old Testament will find their final literal fulfillment in Israel at a future time (Gen. 12:1-3; 28:13; Ps. 105:6-10; Isa. 43:7,10; Rom. 9-11).

Section C. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 1:27; 2:18-25; Eph. 5:22-33)

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and woman. (Prov. 6:25-29; Mal 2:16; Mat. 5:27-28; Rom. 7:1-32 Cor. 6:15-20; Heb. 13:4)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God (Lev 18:6-30; 20:10-21; Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor 5:1; 6:9-11).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as a local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Psalm 32:3-10; John 8:31,32; Rom. 5:6-11)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Church (Luke 18:9-14; Rom. 15:1-3; Phil 2:3,4).

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who acknowledge agreement with the Church's Constitution and Bylaws and have been received into the membership and fellowship by regular action of the church as outlined in Article I of the church Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section A. Government

The government of this church is vested in its membership and governed by the Board of Elders as outlined in Article III. of the church Bylaws. No ecclesiastical body outside itself shall dictate its policies.

Section B. Officers

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor, Elders, and Deacons and the By-Laws shall determine their election, term of service, duties and succession. The church shall elect or cause to be appointed such officers as shall be deemed necessary and proper for the furtherance of the ministry. In all cases, leadership shall be vested in persons whose personal and spiritual qualities conform to Scriptural standards, who are members of the church in good standing, and who acknowledge agreement with both the Core Beliefs and the Essential Beliefs of the Statement of Faith and fully support the Constitution and Bylaws of Oak Grove Christian Church.

Section C Teachers, Leaders and Ministry Department Heads

The teachers, leaders and ministry heads, as designated by the Board of Elders, must acknowledge agreement with both the Core Beliefs and the Essential Beliefs of the Statement of Faith and fully support the Constitution and Bylaws of Oak Grove Christian Church.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section A. Types of Meetings

Meetings for worship, prayer, fellowship, business and special purposes shall be scheduled by the church leadership based on the needs of the church and the function of a biblical strategy of ministry.

Section B. Business Meetings

An annual business meeting and an annual election shall be held at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Other meetings shall be held to conduct the business of the church as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by three-fourths vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, providing that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members of the congregation, or the proposed amendment has been read at a regular Sunday service at least two weeks before the vote is taken.

BYLAWS OF OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Receiving Members

1. Membership Definition

The membership of this Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and acknowledge agreement with the Core Beliefs as outlined in the Statement of Faith and agree to abide by the Oak Grove Christian Church Constitution and Bylaws.

Members will offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and the Constitution and Bylaws of this church and are actively pursuing and continuing in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The membership of the Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Bylaws.

2. Membership Procedure

Individuals wishing to unite with the Church will be received into membership upon completion of the Church's Membership Class, a signed statement acknowledging agreement with the Core Beliefs as outlined in the Statement of Faith and agree to abide by the Oak Grove Christian Church Constitution and Bylaws, and a personal interview with at least one Elder and one other designated individual.

Upon meeting the requirements as outlined above, the Elder board will meet to determine membership status. If the Elder board makes a recommendation for approval the individual will be extended the right hand of fellowship and be

received into full membership at any regular meeting of the Church. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Elder will set up a meeting with any person denied membership to discuss relative issues.

3. Active Membership

A member will be considered “Active” and remain on the membership roll if the individual continues to participate in and be involved with the regular activities of the Church. See Section C for removal of Non-Active member. If a six-month (180 days) period lapses, and no formal letter has been received explaining absence from the Church, the member will be deemed Non-Active and will be considered by Elder board for dismissal from the membership roll.

4. Member in Good Standing

A member in good standing is one who is not under church discipline at Oak Grove Church or any other like-minded body of believers.

Section B. Voting

All active members who are 18 years of age and over and are in good standing in the church may vote in all church business meeting.

Section C. Dismissal of Members

1. Death

Members are removed from the church roll at death.

2. Transfer

Members in good standing, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, will be granted a letter of referral to another church of like doctrine and practice. The letter must be requested by the church to which the member is transferring.

3. Non-Active

Members who do not participate in or are involved with the regular activities of the Church for a six-month (180 days) period of time will be sent a formal letter by the Board of Elders requesting a meeting to discuss continued membership, at which time the status of the member will be evaluated. If the member does not set up a time to meet and discuss their membership at Oak Grove, the Board of Elders, will have no other recourse but to remove member from membership

roll with a formal letter to last known address.

Section D. Church Discipline

1. Purpose

Discipline is that procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition, and rebuke, both public and private, with the view to helping a person grow in grace and mature in the faith. If a Christian refuses to receive such help, it will be necessary to exclude him from membership.

2. Procedure

The Elders and congregation will follow the guidelines in Matt. 18:14-18 for the purpose of restoration. For further discussion see Church Discipline Policy at Oak Grove Church in Policy Manuel.

Section E. Church Disruptions

1. Purpose

There may be occasions when a individual(s) willingly disrupt church events, activities, programs and/or services and action must be taken to safe-guard those present, church equipment or grounds.

2. Procedure

The leaders of the church event or activity will respond initially by asking the individual(s) to depart the premises. Failure to depart will result in a call to local police authorities for assistance in removing and/or restraining the individual(s) for their safety and that of those gathered for the event or activity. If it becomes apparent or those present feel that harm may come through violence or threats, the leaders will have no other recourse but to take immediate action to restrain and/or disable individual(s) from causing injury to themselves or others, until such time as the authorities arrive.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section A. Pastor

1. Qualifications

A man who meets the guidelines listed in 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

2. Duties

He is to oversee, shepherd, protect, equip, pray, evangelize, and exhort the church in sound doctrine (1 Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:17, 27-29; Eph. 4:11-12; Acts 6:1-4; 2 Tim 4:1-5).

3. Selection

In calling a pastor, the Elders shall gather a list of candidates and present to the congregation for scheduling approval. The Elders recommendation and a 90 percent majority of voting members present at a business meeting of the church is necessary to call a pastor. Notice of such a meeting shall be announced at church services at least two Sundays in advance.

4. Term

The Pastor shall serve for an undesignated period of time. He shall give a sixty-day notice to the church or shall be given sixty days' notice by the church whenever severance of the pastoral relationship is deemed necessary. By mutual consent this period may be changed. The Pastor's term of service shall terminate if he violates his office by misconduct, derelict of duties, or false teaching. The pastor shall be suspended from all duties and responsibilities until after church discipline has been applied. In such cases, at the discretion and recommendation of the Board of Elders, he shall be removed by a three-fourths church vote of the members present and voting on the removal of the pastor, at a special meeting called by the Elders.

5. Membership

The Pastor will become a member of the church when called by the congregation. The Board of Elders will confirm his faith as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, they will confirm, by his confession and conduct, that he is living in accord with the Statement of Beliefs of Oak Grove Church, Article III of the Constitution, and is actively pursuing and continuing in fellowship with the Lord

Jesus Christ, and they will obtain a signed statement agreeing with the Church's Constitution and Bylaws.

Section B. Elders

1. Qualifications

A man who meets the guidelines listed in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 And be a member in good standing. He will have been attending this church regularly for at least two years.

2. Duties

He is to assist the Pastor in oversight of the church in spiritual and business matters (1 Pet. 1:1-5; Acts 6:1-4). The elders shall act as corporate officers of the church and serve as trustees.

3. Selection

Upon desire and recognized qualifications (1 Time. 3:1-7) the Elders will present to the congregation nominees for eldership. Ninety percent congregation approval is necessary for an appointment to the Elder Board. The congregation can also submit candidates to the Elders for appointment.

4. Term

- a. Elders shall be affirmed for three years. There shall be a sufficient number of qualified Elders to care for the affairs of the church.
- b. The Elder must be reconfirmed by a ninety percent congregation approval at the end of his term. He shall give a thirty-day notice to the church or shall be given thirty days' notice by the church whenever severance of the elder relationship is deemed necessary. By mutual consent this period may be changed.
- c. The Elder's term of service shall terminate if he violates his office by misconduct, dereliction of duties, or false teaching. The elder shall be suspended from all duties and responsibilities until after the issue has been sufficiently addressed, and if necessary, church discipline has been applied. In such cases, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, he shall be removed by a vote of the Board of Elders at a special meeting called by all others on the Board of Elders who are not part of the issue or the disciplinary action (the elder in question will be excluded from voting rights and a simple majority vote will be established to address any issue).

Section C. Deacons

1. Qualifications

A man who meets the guidelines listed in 1 Tim 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-4. And be a member in good standing. He will have been attending this church regularly for at least two years.

2. Duties

He is to assist the Elders in the practical matters of spiritual and business ministries of the church. The duties are stated in Acts 6:1-6. His ministry focuses on practical service to the congregation as directed by the Elders.

3. Selection

Guidelines are listed in Acts 6:1-6. The need is recognized by the congregation and brought to the attention of the elders; the congregation finds spiritually qualified men and brings them to the Elders for approval. The Deacon serves the specific need under the authority of the Elders. Ninety percent approval is needed by the congregation for a deacon to serve.

4. Term

- a. A Deacon shall serve to meet the specific need for three years or to the conclusion of the need. There shall be a sufficient number of deacons to meet the practical needs of the ministry.
- b. The Deacon must be reconfirmed by a ninety percent congregation approval at the end of his term. He shall give a thirty-day notice to the church or shall be given thirty day notice by the church whenever severance of the deacon relationship is deemed necessary. By mutual consent this period may be changed.
- c. The Deacon's term of service shall terminate if he violates his office by misconduct, dereliction of duties, or false teaching. The deacon shall be suspended from all duties and responsibilities until after the issue has been sufficiently addressed, and if necessary, church discipline has been applied. In such cases, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, he shall be removed by a vote of the Board of Elders at a special meeting called by the Board of Elders who are not part of the issue or the disciplinary action.

ARTICLE III. LEADERSHIP

Section A. Board of Elders and Board of Deacons

1. Acknowledgment of Statement of Faith

Men serving on the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons must acknowledge agreement with the Constitution and Bylaws of Oak Grove Church including both the Core Beliefs and the Essential Beliefs of the Statement of Faith.

2. Oversight

It is the responsibility of the Board of Elders to oversee and govern all aspects of the ministry, function and purpose of Oak Grove Church.

3. Meetings

- a. The Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons shall hold separate meetings for the purpose of discussion, evaluation, and implementation of related church wide ministries.
- b. The Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons will meet regularly to facilitate cohesiveness and unity between the boards.

4. Participants

- a. The Board of Elders meetings shall consist of elders and other invited guest at the request of the elders (guest may include the pastoral staff, ministry participants, members or others).
- b. The Board of Deacons meetings shall consist of the deacons, ministry participants, and other invited guests.

5. Voting Rights

- a. The Elders and or Deacons shall have voting privileges upon confirmation by congregation (see Article II Officers, Sections B and C).
- b. The Sr. Pastor shall serve on the Board of Elders during his service to the church. He shall have voting privileges after completing one year of service to the church and being considered a full-time pastor, this term can be shortened at the discretion of the Board of Elders. A full-time pastor is defined as any paid ministerial staff (see Article II Officers, Section A above) who has been hired for thirty hours or more per week.
- c. Other Pastoral staff may be considered for appointment to the Board of Elders.

6. Goal

All decisions within the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons must be unanimous. Unity is the goal. When an issue lacks unity, it is tabled until after a season of prayer. It is then brought back for discussion and action. Unity in the church must begin with the leadership.

Section B. Officers

1. Appointment of Officers

The Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons shall appoint a chair to preside at all meetings, a Vice-Chair to preside in the Chair's absence, and secretary whose job it is to keep minutes of each meeting.

2. Term of Service

The officers will serve for a term of one year.

3. Duty of Chair/Vice-Chair

- a. The Chairman will preside over the meetings. He will be the voice to the congregation on behalf of the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, and will carry out duties necessary for the operation of the church.
- b. The Elder Chairman will conduct the annual business meeting

Section C. Accountability

1. Accountability in Reporting

- a. The Board of Elders shall be accountable to the congregation by making reports to the church at each regular business meeting.
- b. The Board of Deacons shall be accountable to the Board of Elders by giving a copy of their monthly meeting minutes.

2. Mutual Resource

- a. The Board of Elders will endeavor to help facilitate the Deacons in fulfilling their role at the church, likewise the Board of Deacons will direct their efforts in helping the Elders to direct the church.
- b. The Elders and Deacons will work together to further all the ministries of Oak Grove Church.

Section D. Treasurer

1. Qualifications

The treasurer must be a member in good standing and have been attending this church regularly for at least two years.

2. Duties

The Treasurer shall be under the authority of the Board of Elders, receiving and disbursing all funds of the church as they direct. The Treasurer shall make monthly reports to the Board of Elders and an annual report to the church.

3. Selection

They shall be appointed by the Board of Elders and approved by the congregation at a regular business meeting.

4. Term

The Treasurer will serve for two years.